(d) what steps have been taken by Government to provide for a much larger provision for research in this area by the institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) There is no controversy over the status of research in earthquake prediction as reported in Hindustan Times dated 2nd October, 1993. The variation is only in the perception which cannot be ruled out in the case of such complex problems. The state of art for earthquake prediction is still at an elementary level even in advanced countries and no short-term deterministic prediction of earthquakes is feasible at present enabling advance movement of people to safer places in such eventualities.

(c) and (d) In CSIR, National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad is the main laboratory doing R&D work in this regard and it has been allocated Rs. 14 lakhs for the period from April, 1993 to March, 1996 for this purpose. Besides, Rs. 5 crores each has been allocated to Department of Science & Technology's semismicity programme as well as India Meteorological Department's seismology programme durinug 8th Plan. Department of Science & Technology is further formulating a proposal for a Mission Mode Project on seismic observations with a view to updating and strengthening seismological studies in India.

RISING FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF EARTHQUAKES

3263. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1039 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th December, 1993 and state whether it is a fact that the frequency and intensity of earthquake in the country is on the increase, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : No, Sir, The measuremen's do not indicate an increase in the ambient seismic activity.

RESOURCES TO PREDICT MAHARASHTRA EARTHQUAKE

3264. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Quake could have been predicted" as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated 20-10-93;

(b) whether adequate data was available for seismologists to predict the recent earthquake in Maharashtra ;

(c) if so, whether Government have not taken adequate steps to predict the earthquake; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no technology available anywhere in the world to predict earthquakes in time, space and magnitude with reasonable degree of accuracy.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, Sir.